War

829 they only saw them run away when the Japanese
[648] came in. He then said something which was quite interesting: that it is not hard for even the illiterates here to understand the government of any land in the world, as they have had so much experience with a system of government here. All they have to do is imagine the alien organization in terms of their own political organization.

875 As for information spread about in regard to
203 politics and current events, Roy says that the guru do a lot of this. The people ask them questions, and they are really big men.

521 The people here do not talk much about poli-
829 tics. Even when they had the big day of celebrating independence and the flag was flown, after the main information about the Round Table Conference was out, the people began to talk about their gardens, etc. They know about Sukarno, because his picture is everywhere [the Hitler theme?]. The thing which really settled
[798] the rumor that the red and white flag is that of Islam was Sukarno's speech that all religions were free. Priests must have publicized this.

829 The local people know that Java is the center
203 of all Indonesia, but there is little talk about
521 this yet. Roy sees the importance in this of the complete absence of movies, radio, and the relative absence of papers. If the people had these, they would talk more (as do the backward Buginese who see movies of other lands and are curious about them).

794 Roy says that Catholicism does not mix itself
665 up with politics here at all. When elections are held, the priest says in church that they must be sure to choose the right man. At least, he insists that the church is not involved in politics. I tried to press Roy by telling him how the church tried to get another radja for Manggarai, because the present one, although

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794 Catholic, has two wives, but he was adamant.
665 As for Mohammedanism, he says that they are dormant politically, or at least they have been until recently. Now that Dr. Sutomo is here he is becoming a kind of Mohammedan leader. However, the Mohammedans are few and they are important only in Kampong Baru. There was a
798 rumor here on the Japanese entrance that the
203 Japanese were Mohammedans. It went further to the effect that all Christians and pagans were to be killed. The theme was that you had better get your songko boys. There was a new version, when the red and white flag went up. It went that this was really the flag of Islam and that the Christians and pagans would have no voice in the government. He thinks that perhaps this rumor was started by the Mohammedans. It was here that he joyfully parroted several times my word desas-desus [whispering, rumors]. He learns new words fast.

178 The situation here is the reverse of the
797 usual thing. The Catholics are the radicals,
565 in the sense that they are against the old
177 things which are pagan, and the pagans are the
769 conservatives in the sense that they want to keep the old ways. This will change later, surely.

This led to a long talk about the entry of Catholicism here. Roy admits that he may be the most powerful factor in the fast and one hundred per cent conversion here. He said that the main reason was that he gave good lessons (ketranggan [interpretation, clarification, proof]) and the second reason was that he happens to be a real noble. The latter meant not only that he had a good name and respected rank, but that he was in close touch with and had real privileges in the pagan ancestral stuff. Indeed, his own rank depends on the ancestor cult. If he was willing to take a chance with the new